

November 30, 1961

Dr. J.L. Strominger
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Dear Jack:

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in your letter of November 28.

As a matter of fact, we have put quite a bit of work into polyvinyl alcohol-iodine filters and have been able to improve them quite substantially over the published reports. We found that methocel constitutes a better base for staining with iodine than polyvinyl alcohol does. Some of our best filters have a peak transmission of almost 50% with considerably less than 1% transmission in the side bands.

Cation X works quite nicely when used to impregnate polyvinyl alcohol and is sometimes of considerable advantage in combination with the PVA-I filter. There are also some innovations by Childs that are quite interesting by way of single crystal NiSO_4 filters - referred in the Journal of the Optical Society of America, August 1961.

I have an assistant now who is quite adept at making these filters and if this can be of any use to you, please let me know. We did play around quite a bit with trying to improve the technique of producing them, for example, incorporating the iodine directly in the casting solution, but we had our best results by the method described in the enclosure.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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P.S. The author of that famous scientific article in Time actually sent me a spontaneous apology!

STROMINGER, J.L.